

Hold Fast The Pattern

Lesson 2



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

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Lesson 2

Learn how to follow God's pattern for your life

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Study Number: DGW14

Written by Eric Krieg

About the author: My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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Lesson 2

A good question!

The question, “How do we follow the pattern?” is a good question! If there is a pattern of sound words that is contained within the pages of the Bible – and if that pattern will be the criteria by which we will be judged, we need to follow that pattern! But, this doesn’t tell us *how* to follow the pattern! Therefore, we need to spend some time specifically discussing how it is that we can all follow the pattern of sound words!

Determine to follow the pattern

(1) Determine to “hold fast” to it. If we are going to follow the pattern that is contained within the Bible, we must simply determine to follow it! We must “hold fast” to it! Look again at 2 Timothy 1:13: “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”

The phrase “hold fast” means to hold, follow, cling to, adhere to, etc. Therefore, this pattern is not to be let go – as a glue or adhesive closely joins two things together!

Further, we are instructed to hold fast to this pattern “in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.” Our faith (complete trust and dependence) in Jesus Christ is what causes us to *begin* following the pattern and our faith in Jesus Christ is what causes us to *continue* following the pattern! Notice what Paul had just said in 2 Timothy 1:12 (as he expresses his full trust and dependence in God): “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”

Then, not only is our faith deeply involved in adhering ourselves to this God-given pattern of sound words; but, we also cling to this pattern because of our love for Jesus Christ. According to the teaching of Jesus Christ, Himself, our love for Christ

In 2 Timothy 1:13, Paul instructed Timothy: “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”

True disciples of Jesus Christ are truth-seekers. To some who had believed in Him, Jesus said, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). Therefore, true disciples of Jesus Christ will hold fast the pattern of sound words. True disciples of Jesus Christ will not be interested in abandoning this pattern or in changing this pattern in any way – for any reason!

The purpose of this two-part study is to focus on some questions we need to be asking ourselves in light of the teaching in 2 Timothy 1:13. It is my sincere hope and prayer that you desire to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ – and will desire to discover the pattern that God has revealed, determining to cling to it! Holding fast to the pattern of sound words is the only way that you can be pleasing to God!

In our first lesson, we found how the Bible answers each of the following questions: (1) Is there a pattern to follow? (2) Where do we find the pattern? (3) What is the importance of following the pattern?

Now, we want to investigate two additional questions: (1) How do we follow the pattern? (2) What is the pattern about?

is demonstrated by our willingness to keep His commandments. In John 14:15, Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” Also notice what the apostle John wrote in 1 John 5:3: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.” So, not only must we keep Jesus’ commandments; but, His commandments must not be a burden to us – if we truly love Jesus. Therefore, if we truly love Jesus Christ (the one who loved us enough to die for us so that we could be saved from our sins), we will adhere to/hold fast this pattern of sound words!

(2) Determine that the only way to please God is to obey Him. As you determine to follow the pattern and to “hold fast” to it, you will need to make the determination that obeying God is the only way to please God. Consider the following passages that indicate the necessity of obedience.

Matthew 7:21-23 demonstrates that it is *not* enough to just believe in Jesus. Instead, we must also obey God! It says, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

Hebrews 5:9 demonstrates that those who will be saved must be obedient to Jesus Christ. It says, “And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”

Revelation 22:14 demonstrates that it is those who “do” His commandments who will have the “right” to the tree of life and may enter through the gates into the city (Heaven)! It says, “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 demonstrates that those who are faithful to Christ will be given rest when Jesus returns in final Judgment. However, it also demonstrates that those who are disobedient to Him will be eternally punished! It says, “and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty

angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

So, it is not enough just to believe in Jesus (i.e. just to mentally acknowledge who Jesus is and what He has done). It is not enough just to believe the pattern of sound words (i.e. just to believe the Bible is the word of God). Rather, we must be doers of the word! Consider James 1:22-25: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

Error often comes in two simple forms. First, error comes by believing and doing the wrong things (i.e. failing to believe or follow the pattern). Second, error comes by believing the right things but failing to practice the right things (i.e. believing the pattern but not doing what it says). Both of these are wrong in the sight of God and will result in eternal condemnation! In order to please God we must hold fast the pattern of sound words – believing the pattern and doing what it teaches!

(3) Determine to follow Jesus no matter the cost. Holding fast to the pattern of sound words will not always be easy! We may be ridiculed by others. We may be alienated from those we love. We may be persecuted for the sake of the gospel. There are many temptations and trials that will come to those who are attempting to follow the pattern – that will try to tear us away from following God’s pattern!

Yet, the ones who truly recognize the importance of holding fast to the pattern of sound words will be determined to follow Jesus Christ no matter the cost! In Luke 14:25-33, Jesus taught that the cost of true discipleship is very high – as He requires complete devotion from those who will follow after Him (even above their devotion to their earthly families, their earthly possessions, and their

own earthly lives)! And, as Jesus teaches this great level of devotion to Him, Jesus teaches that we must “count the cost” to see whether or not we will commit ourselves to Him in this way – before we begin to follow Him!

In Matthew 10:34-39, Jesus expounds upon the dedication that He requires of His followers above their dedication to their earthly family members. He describes how that following Him will cause separations within earthly families (since not everyone within a family will follow Him). However, He states that “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it” (verses 37-39).

So, Jesus says that nothing and no one can be more valuable in our lives than following Him! Those who determine to follow Jesus Christ, therefore, must be willing to endure hardship, willing to endure persecution, willing to be alienated from those they love, and even willing to give their own lives to die for Jesus Christ – if it is required of them! Jesus Christ must come absolutely first in our lives if we want to follow Him. Otherwise, if we are not willing to follow Jesus Christ above everyone and everything else in life, Jesus says that we “cannot” be His disciples (see Luke 14:26-27, 33)!

Determine to follow only the pattern

As we seek to learn to follow the pattern, not only must we determine to follow the pattern – even above everything and everyone else in life; but, we must make the determination to follow *only* the pattern!

We must not view any area as being “insignificant” or “no big deal.” Some folks are willing to dismiss parts of the pattern that may be inconvenient to them, unpleasant to them, or simply unimportant to them. So, folks are often guilty of holding to *part* of the pattern – but, not the entire pattern! Yet, consider if that would work in other areas....

Would it work if you only held to part of the pattern when you were building a house? Would it work if you only held to part of the pattern when you were following a cooking recipe? Would it work if you only followed part of the pattern when doing wood crafting? Would it work if you only followed part of the pattern when you were making a dress from a sewing pattern? Surely, even if these things looked or tasted *decent*, it would not be the same thing the pattern had instructed!

Clearly, then, there is a need to hold fast to the entire pattern of sound words in order to be pleasing to God – and we must not deviate from this pattern for anything or anyone! Consider what is said in James 2:10, regarding the one who follows the pattern in *most* but not in *all* areas: “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” Remember, Revelation 22:18-19 (which we read in lesson 1) said that we must not add to or take away from God’s word (His pattern)!

In addition, as we determine to follow only the pattern, we must realize that there are many false “patterns” in the religious world – even in (so-called) “Christianity.” However, there is only one true pattern that comes from God! All other patterns may claim to be the “right” pattern; but, they all change the pattern in some form or another. Again, please recognize that no deviation from God’s pattern is acceptable to Him! So, there is no deviation from this pattern we should say is “no big deal”!

Consider the instruction that was given to the Israelites (prior to the Israelites going in to possess the promised land of Canaan): “Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess” (Deuteronomy 5:32-33). Although we do not live under the Old Testament Law today, this instruction accurately represents our responsibility toward God’s pattern today – as God still does not permit us to change His pattern in whatever way we desire!

So, don't take anyone's word as truth – except God's word. Don't follow man-made traditions over God's word. Don't follow man-made doctrine over God's word. Don't follow the majority (crowd) to do that which is wrong. Don't follow anything/anyone that is contrary to the pattern – not even if it may *seem* right to you! Remember Proverbs 14:12: “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”

Establish Bible authority for everything!

In order to hold fast the pattern of sound words, we must establish Bible authority for everything that we do! Since it is so vitally important to have Bible authority for all that we do in our lives, let's consider some basics about how to establish Bible authority. There are three ways through which we can establish Bible authority.

(1) Through a direct command given in the Scriptures. For instance, baptism is commanded in Acts 2:38: “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” Loving our enemies is commanded in Matthew 5:44: “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” So, we have Bible authority (established by direct commands) for both of these actions – that we must do these things if we want to live in a way that pleases God!

(2) Through an approved example given in the Scriptures. For instance, Acts 8:38-39 shows an approved example of baptism: “So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.” Acts 20:7 shows an approved example of Christians partaking of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week: “Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight” (note that the “breaking of bread” refers to the Lord's Supper in this passage). So, we have Bible authority

(established by approved examples) for both of these actions.

(3) Through a forced conclusion from the Scriptures. This is a conclusion that is *necessary* (not a guess or something that is speculated; but, one that is unmistakable). For instance, Acts 8:38-39 forces us to the conclusion that the man from Ethiopia was immersed in water and not sprinkled (or any other practice). For, the passage (as we have just read) tells us that both the one being baptized and the one doing the baptizing went down into the water for the baptism – and both came up out of the water. Acts 20:7 forces us to the conclusion that the Lord's Supper is to be taken on the first day of every week (and not just on a yearly, quarterly, or monthly basis – or any other practice). So, we have Bible authority (established by forced conclusions) for each of these practices.

In these 3 ways, Bible authority is established. Bible authority is not established in any other way. Bible authority is not established because I *want* the Bible to teach a particular thing. Bible authority is not established because I always *thought* the Bible taught a particular thing. Bible authority is not established because I have always *done things* a particular way. Instead, Bible authority is only established if there is direct command, an approved example, or a forced conclusion.

2 types of Bible authority

Now that we understand how to establish Bible authority, let's consider the two types of authority that can be established: Generic and specific authority.

(1) Generic authority. Generic authority is authority for a thing without specifying how it is to be accomplished. For example, a parent might instruct a child to “Go to the grocery store and buy something for dinner.” Authority is established to go to the store and buy something for dinner. However, the authority is *generic* because how to go or what to buy was not specified. Thus, the child could decide to go to the store by walking, riding his bicycle, or by some other means. He could choose to buy chicken, ham, bacon, eggs, or something else for

dinner. This would all be acceptable because generic authority was given.

A New Testament example of this principle is found in Mark 16:15: “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’” Authority is given (established by direct command) to go and preach the gospel. However, the authority is *generic* because how to go or the exact location to go to is not specified. We could choose to go to Middlebourne, WV or Rome, Italy. We could choose to go by foot or by plane. God has not specified how to accomplish the instruction.

(2) Specific authority. Specific authority is authority for a thing that is specific in how it is to be accomplished. For example, that same parent might instruct the child to “Walk to the store and buy hot dogs and macaroni and cheese for dinner.” Authority is given to go to the store and buy something for dinner once again. However, this time the authority is *specific* because how to go and what to buy were specified. Thus, it would be a violation of the command for the child to ride his bicycle to the store and buy pizza for dinner!

A New Testament example of *specific* authority is found in Ephesians 5:19 (and all other New Testament passages on the subject): “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,” The specific action that is authorized is singing. The action is to be accomplished in the heart (not on a piano or guitar). The songs that are to be sung are specified as psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (not popular culture songs). Thus, it would be a violation of the command to introduce a mechanical instrument of music into the assemblies of the church or to sing popular culture songs! God has given specific instructions on the matter that are to be followed – and not be changed!

It is, therefore, important for you to consider whether a thing has generic or specific authority, as you seek to hold fast to the pattern!

What Is The Pattern About?

A good question!

The question “What is the pattern about?” is a good question! We have spent our time (up to this point) generically talking about the pattern of sound words and how to find and follow the pattern! I hope that these things are well established in our minds. Now, we need to spend the last part of this study investigating what the pattern is about!

Certainly, we will not be able to discuss every aspect of Bible doctrine in the remainder of this lesson – nor will we be able to fully discuss each of the subjects we will consider. However, we will discuss some important fundamental matters and encourage further study in each of these areas! Although I am simply overviewing these points, I would encourage you to think about each of the following points and look up the Bible references listed.

A pattern about God

The pattern of sound words we must be diligent to hold fast includes a pattern about God. Consider a few facts about this pattern.

(1) The Bible teaches that there is a God. This God had made Himself known to us through His creation (Romans 1:19-21; Psalm 19:1).

(2) The Bible teaches that there are three Persons who possess the characteristics of being God (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit). Each one of these three Persons are joined with the others in Matthew 28:19-20.

(3) God is eternal (Revelation 4:8), All-Powerful (Revelation 19:6), All-Knowing (Romans 11:33-36), and Ever-Present (Proverbs 15:3).

(4) Among God’s characteristics are: Holiness (Revelation 4:8), love (John 3:16), impartiality (Romans 2:11), goodness and severity (Romans 11:22), and faithfulness (1 Corinthians 10:13).

While this is not *all* the Bible teaches us about God and His nature, these are important

fundamental facts you must accept. Hold fast to the pattern of sound words!

A pattern about Christ

The pattern of sound words we must be diligent to hold fast includes a pattern about Jesus Christ. Consider a few facts about this pattern.

(1) Jesus Christ possesses the nature of being God (John 1:1; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:9).

(2) Jesus Christ (the Son of God) left Heaven and came to earth (John 1:14), was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:23-25), maintained His Deity while on the earth (Colossians 2:9), lived a perfect life (Hebrews 4:15), gave His life as a ransom sacrifice by dying on the cross (Matthew 20:28), was buried (Matthew 27:57-60), rose from the dead (Matthew 28:1-10), and ascended back to Heaven (Acts 1:9-11).

(3) Jesus Christ is coming again – at an unknown time – and will Judge everyone who has ever lived (Matthew 24:36-44; Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

While this is not *all* the Bible teaches us about Jesus Christ, these are important fundamental facts you must accept. Hold fast to the pattern of sound words!

A pattern about the Bible

The pattern of sound words we must be diligent to hold fast includes a pattern of teaching about itself (the Bible). Consider a few facts about this pattern.

(1) The Bible contains the words of God (2 Timothy 3:16), as it has been revealed by the Holy Spirit to the apostles and prophets (Ephesians 3:3-5; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16).

(2) The Bible is the only perfect guide to tell us how to live our lives in a way that pleases God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3).

(3) The Bible will be the standard of Judgment, whether we have lived according to its teachings or violated its teachings (John 12:48; Revelation 20:11-15).

While this is not *all* that the Bible teaches us about itself, these are important fundamental facts you must accept. Hold fast to the pattern of sound words!

A pattern about man's soul

The pattern of sound words we must be diligent to hold fast includes a pattern of teaching about man's soul. Consider a few facts about this pattern.

(1) Mankind has been created with a soul that survives physical death (Genesis 1:26-27; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Corinthians 5:1-7).

(2) Man's soul will either spend eternity in Heaven or in Hell (to be discussed momentarily) – based on whether we have followed God's pattern for our lives or not (2 Corinthians 5:10; Galatians 6:7-8; Revelation 20:12).

(3) The soul of man is the most valuable thing that we possess – and we must not “sell” it for anything or anyone, recognizing that Jesus Christ is coming again, we will all be judged, and we will all spend our eternities in either Heaven or Hell (Matthew 16:24-27).

While this is not *all* that the Bible teaches us about man's soul, these are important fundamental facts you must accept. Hold fast to the pattern of sound words!

A pattern about Heaven

The pattern of sound words we must be diligent to hold fast includes a pattern about Heaven. Consider a few facts about this pattern.

(1) Heaven is a beautiful place that is free from evil, pain, death, etc. (Revelation 21:1-22:5).

(2) Heaven is a place of eternal life in the presence of God (Matthew 25:46; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 22:1-5).

(3) Heaven is a place that is promised to everyone who is obedient to God (Hebrews 5:9; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Revelation 22:14).

While this is not *all* that the Bible teaches us about Heaven, these are important fundamental facts

you must accept. Hold fast to the pattern of sound words!

A pattern about Hell

The pattern of sound words we must be diligent to hold fast includes a pattern about Hell. Consider a few facts about this pattern.

(1) Hell is a place of darkness, torment, pain, anguish, and suffering that has been prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:30, 41, 46; Mark 9:43-48).

(2) Hell is a place of eternal punishment that is entirely separated from God (Matthew 25:41; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 14:11; Revelation 21:8).

(3) Hell is a place in which those who are disobedient to God will spend their eternities (Matthew 7:21-23; Matthew 25:41, 46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:8).

While this is not all that the Bible teaches us about Hell, these are important fundamental facts you must accept. Hold fast to the pattern of sound words!

A pattern about sin

The pattern of sound words we must be diligent to hold fast includes a pattern about sin. Consider a few facts about this pattern.

(1) We are each born sinless – and do ***not*** inherit our sin or a sinful nature from Adam (Ezekiel 18:20; Matthew 18:1-4; Romans 5:12).

(2) We sin whenever we choose to violate God's law, the pattern (James 1:14-15; James 4:17; 1 John 3:4; 1 John 5:17).

(3) Sin is contrary to the nature of God (Habakkuk 1:13; James 1:13; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 4:8).

(4) The wages of our sin is spiritual separation (death) from God, since it is contrary to His nature (Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:5-7; Revelation 21:8).

(5) All sin is equal in God's sight and is equally deserving of spiritual death (Romans 1:18-32; Romans 6:23; Galatians 5:19-21).

While this is not all that the Bible teaches us about sin, these are important fundamental facts you must accept. Hold fast to the pattern of sound words!

A pattern about salvation

The pattern of sound words we must be diligent to hold fast includes a pattern about salvation. Consider a few facts about this pattern.

(1) God has done His part in our salvations by providing the sacrifice for our sins, Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Romans 6:23). It is only by God's grace and mercy that we can be forgiven after we have sinned – and we cannot earn our salvations (Ephesians 2:1-10).

(2) Man must still do his part in salvation. This is evident in the fact that not everyone will be saved (Matthew 7:13-14) and by the response to the question, "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37-38). Furthermore, Jesus Christ is only the Author of eternal salvation to those who obey Him (Hebrews 5:9).

(3) God has required that we must do the following in order to be forgiven of our sins and be saved eternally in Heaven: Hear His word (Romans 10:17), believe (John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6), repent of our sins (Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus Christ (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:9-10), be baptized (immersed, Romans 6:3-4; Acts 8:38-39) in water (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:20-21), and remain faithful unto death (1 Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10).

While this is not all that the Bible teaches us about salvation, these are important fundamental facts you must accept. Hold fast to the pattern of sound words!

A pattern about the church

The pattern about sound words we must be diligent to hold fast includes a pattern about the church. Consider a few facts about this pattern.

(1) Jesus Christ is the one who promised to build His church (Matthew 16:18) and is the one who

died to establish it (Acts 20:28). Therefore, it is His church (Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16).

(2) Those who are obedient to the gospel's plan of salvation (which we just identified) are added to the church of Christ (Acts 2:41, 47).

(3) There is only one true church that belongs to Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 4:4).

(4) Local churches of Christ are composed of Christians (those who have been obedient to the gospel's plan of salvation) and are *not* different denominations, as they must all be unified in the faith of the gospel (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 1:27).

(5) Local churches have a specific God-given pattern to follow in their work: Limited benevolence toward needy Christians (1 Corinthians 16:1-4), evangelism (1 Thessalonians 1:8), and edification (Ephesians 4:11-16).

(6) Local churches have a specific God-given pattern to follow in their worship: Weekly observance of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7), collection on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), gospel teaching (Acts 20:7), praying (1 Corinthians 14:15), and singing (1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19).

(7) Local churches have a specific God-given pattern to follow in their organizational structures: Saints (Philippians 1:1), deacons (Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-13), and elders (Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-7).

While this is not all that the Bible teaches us about the church, these are important fundamental facts you must accept. Hold fast to the pattern of sound words.

A pattern about Christian living

The pattern about sound words we must be diligent to hold fast includes a pattern about Christian living. Consider a few facts about this pattern.

(1) Christians have the responsibility to live lives of faithful obedience to God (Revelation 2:10).

(2) Christians have the responsibility to live holy lives (separated from everything that is evil) that are patterned after God's holiness (1 Peter 1:15-16).

(3) Christians have the responsibility to walk in newness of life, having put the "old man" of sin to death and put on the "new man" that is patterned after God (Romans 6:1-14; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:1-4:1).

(4) Christians have the responsibility to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to others (Romans 10:13-18; 2 Timothy 2:2, 24-26).

(5) Christians have the responsibility to fulfill their God-given roles in the home (Ephesians 5:22-6:4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Peter 3:1-7).

(6) Christians have the responsibility to do good to everyone as they have opportunity (Galatians 6:9-10).

(7) There is a pattern in the New Testament of Christians joining themselves together with other Christians in their communities, thereby forming local churches to accomplish a specific God-given mission (Acts 9:26; Romans 16:5, 14-16; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:2; etc.).

(8) Christians who have joined themselves to a local church have certain responsibilities they must fulfill (i.e. not willfully forsaking the assembling of the church together, Hebrews 10:24-25).

While this is not all that the Bible teaches us about Christian living, these are important fundamental facts you must accept. Hold fast to the pattern of sound words.

Conclusion

As we close this study, please consider the instruction in 2 Timothy 1:13 once more: "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus."

If you truly love the Lord and want to do what is right, you must hold fast the pattern of sound words! If you want to live your life in the way that pleases the Lord and desire to go to Heaven when

your life on this earth is over, hold fast the pattern of sound words!

There are many other roads that may *seem* right – but, if they deviate from the God-given pattern in the least, you can know that they are not going to lead you to Heaven (see Proverbs 14:12; Matthew 7:13-14; Matthew 7:21-23)!

Please investigate the Scriptures, studying and meditating upon it daily (Acts 17:11), so that you can discover more about the pattern that is revealed therein – so that you can be diligent to follow the pattern!

Hold fast to the pattern of sound words! Make that your life-long endeavor! Buy the truth and do not sell it (Proverbs 23:23)! Buy the truth, no matter the cost – and refuse to sell it, no matter the offer!

Study Questions

What does 2 Timothy 1:13 instruct?

What questions were answered in our first study?

1. How Do We Follow The Pattern?

What should you determine to do regarding the pattern?

What is the importance of determining to follow *only* the pattern?

Why do you need to establish Bible authority for everything?

*How is Bible authority established?

*What are the two types of Bible authority that can be established?

2. Pattern About What?

What is the pattern about God?

What is the pattern about Christ?

What is the pattern about the Bible?

What is the pattern about man's soul?

What is the pattern about Heaven?

What is the pattern about Hell?

What is the pattern about sin?

What is the pattern about salvation?

What is the pattern about the church?

What is the pattern about Christian living?

***Are you dedicated to holding fast the pattern of sound words? Explain your answer.**